(c) whether we have received orders for these helicopters from other countries; if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of foreign exchange so far earned out of these deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With advanced technological features, capability for multi-mission, multi-role operations in varying climatic conditions and customised role equipments, Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) have got potential in several market segments.

(c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has submitted techno-commercial proposals to several countries for supply of ALH. HAL has supplied two ALH to the Government of Nepal at a total price of Rs. 76.36 crores.

Discriminatory treatment to Defence pensioners

16. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence pensioners below officers rank living in Delhi have to present themselves physically before the Defence Pension Disbursing Officer at Red Fort on appointed dates for signing the annual identification certificates in his presence, which cause them avoidable hardship and discomfort, particularly to the infirm sick and the old;

(b) whether the civilian pensioners sign such certificates in the bank branches, from where they actually draw their pension; and

(c) if so, why this discrimination and whether Government propose to rectifty the same; if so, by when and if not, the reasosn therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence pensioners below officers rank before retirement, who opt to draw pension from Defence Pension Disbursing Officer, Red Fort, only are required to present themselves before Defence Pension Disbursing Officer on any working date after 1st April during the year for Annual identification in order to ensure that payment of pension is made to genuine claimants. In respect of infirm, bodily ill and aged defence pensioners, instead of physical presence, provisions exist for acceptance of a life

certificate issued by one of the authorities/persons authorised in this regard under the Pension Payment Instructions including responsible Government officers, head of the village Panchayat etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All pensioners sign such certificates with their Pension Disbursing Authorities. Thus, there is no discrimination.

Naming of Uttaranchal as Uttarakhand

†17. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the people of Uttaranchal have been making a demand since the very inception of the State to change the name of the State as Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether State Government has sent any such proposal to the Centre; and

(c) the dates of sending such proposals by State Government and by when the Government are likely to take action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) In April 2002 and June 2004, the Government of Uttaranchal forwarded proposals to change the name of the State from Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the exact time frame within which the Government would take the action.

Social-economic development in Naxal-affected areas

18. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had convened a meeting of top officers of naxal-affected States on the 5th August, 2004 on the security and socio-economic development in the naxal-affected areas;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.